

HELP THE BOARD OF COST REVIEW RE-VALUE THE PROJECT COSTS; TAKE OFF THE RIVER FRONT PROTECTION, RAILROAD AND LEVEE FROM THE BUILDING CHARGES; IT'S UP TO YOU; "OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS," SAID EVERETTE P. TEASDALE, RECENTLY.

Phoenix, Ariz., June 17. To Yuma Daily Examiner:

The Phoenix board of cost review is still convening. It is reported that the findings and report is submitted by order of Secretary Lane to Dr. Elwood Mead. Dr. Mead left Phoenix for Berkeley, California on Wednesday afternoon and is now enroute.

Before leaving, it is reported that he received a wire from the Yuma valley water users advising him that they are in hearty accord with Secretary Lane's board of cost review plans and ideas, which now are only beginning to be fully understood.

These plans mention a vastly greater scope for the benefit of the settlers on government projects than was supposed and all of this is being gradually announced since Dr. Mead arrived in the West.

The secretary has the interests of the settler and cultivator of the land close at heart and is determined to make successes where failure might under less able management fall.

With the assistance of Dr. Mead as chairman of the general board of cost review and vested with full authority to act for Secretary Lane in all matters pertaining to local boards of cost review, all the hearings and findings shall have his close attention and helpful advice.

Brig. Gen. W. L. Marshall left Yuma last night, intending to stop off at Yosemite national park enroute to get his family, and will meet, by appointment, Dr. Mead at the Inside Inn, in San Francisco world's fair, June 20th, to discuss local boards.

The water users' member, Everett P. Teasdale, of the Yuma local board, has been conferring with both Dr. Mead and Gen. Marshall. Mr. Teasdale had wires Wednesday from Secretary Lane about Yuma project affairs. Your editor saw these wires and

can assure one and all of those interested that the affairs of Yuma project as they affect the farmer and land owner and his interests are receiving more attention than ever before.

This is gratifying to all concerned.

The Reclamation Service and reclamation is to be eminently successful under Secretary Lane and his guidance, and with the assistance of his trusted force, the farmer will feel the effects of this at once. And, as stated in a recent letter to Mr. Teasdale by W. A. Ryan, comptroller of the U. S. R. S., who said:

"I am sure you can pin your faith and stake your all on the findings of the cost review board of the Yuma project."

And by another and vitally important statement in a recent letter to Mr. Teasdale from A. P. Davis, wherein he said to be reported to the settlers upon Yuma project, the following:

"The reclamation commission is unanimously in favor of relieving the settlers upon the Yuma project of the cost of river front protection, the levees, the railroad and all they cost, and relieve the building charges of these amounts; and that the success or failure of Yuma project and have the cost review board decide this question is up to you. Your course now should be clear, and if you have the interests of these at heart you represent, you will give this question most careful and thoughtful consideration and such recommendation."

So, your editor feels sure of his ground with the expressions of such from the officials of the service; and, further, by reference to the official hearings by the congressional appropriations committee by Mr. A. P. Davis that this was necessary to assure the success of the Yuma project, we positively state

that the forthcoming re-valuation of project costs will be scaled down to a fair and equitable and "live-and-let-live" basis.

Your editor says: "Help the local board of cost review do this."

STOP LYING ABOUT BOYS IN THE CIVIL WAR

The soldier boy legend is one of those myths that die hard or do not die at all, says the Washington Star. Facts do not kill the fairy tale that the American Civil War was fought by boys. When a fable gets a good start and if it is a romantic fable which makes a strong appeal to a man's fancy or imagination, it is almost a self-started, and it is a difficult thing—sometimes an impossible thing—to stop. Hard, cold facts will not run fast enough or far enough to catch up with a popular legend.

It seems an affectionate and patriotic expression to call our soldiers, or soldier men, "soldier boys." Of course a soldier no matter if he has a gray beard and a bald head, is a boy to his parents. In the eyes of parents, especially of the mother, it is a most unusual thing for a boy to outgrow his boyhood. He is always mother's boy.

A recent newspaper writer, treating of the subject, "Boys in the War," wrote:

"For the truth is, battles are lost and won by children. Our own war between the states may be taken as typical. In that struggle there were 2,700,000 enlistments in the Union army. Of this number more than 2,000,000 were under twenty-one years of age—or, to be exact, 2,159,798. If you have a lad of seventeen about the house you consider him a child, of course; that is all he is. Yet we had more than 800,000 of these children in our war between the states, more than 100,000 of them being under fifteen years of age, and they determined the

result of the struggle. It was not the 16,000 men of forty-five years that did so, nor the 40,000 between twenty-six and forty-five that found their way into the service. There were more than a thousand children under fourteen years of age in the Civil War and 300 of them were under twelve. And 25 little fellows of ten years of age were enlisted, but they were drummer boys and were usually "in the service with their fathers."

These figures have been going the rounds for a long number of years. It is not clear where they originated, but about forty-five years ago the adjutant general's department of the U. S. army issued a report in which the statement was made that the average age of the men engaged in the Civil War on the Union side was twenty-three years. As to their being more than two millions under twenty-one years of age, it is probable that not that many men were enlisted in the Union armies. There were 2,700,000 "enlistments," but a great many of these were re-enlistments, and the number of bounty jumpers or men who enlisted, deserted and again enlisted under another name and repeated this proceeding until caught or finally discharged or killed, will never be known. But the re-enlistments and the enlisting repeaters cuts down very considerably under 2,700,000 the number of men under service in the federal armies.

The boy myth does not stand the photographic test. Thousands of photographs were made of Union soldiers during the Civil War. There were photographs of individual soldiers, groups, squads, companies and regiments. Youth, bearded youth, was there; but tender boyhood and immature lads are not to be seen in many of the pictures.

In the armies of the South, especially in the later phases of the conflict, many fifteen and sixteen-year-old boys were in the ranks. The reason was that the Confederacy raked the South for white males able to bear arms.—Boston Herald.

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